

Somers, Elaine

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, September 03, 2014 9:39 AM
To: Somers, Elaine
Subject: RE: Open Letter to the Armed Services Committee - emergency information

Hi Elaine,

I just left a phone message, but want to up-date you on our battle with the Navy. Any entity left to run lawless is likely to abuse. Our fight has shifted from the local legislators and the Navy to Congress. You can see what we are attempting at [Stop 22 More Growlers!](#) We've been getting some response, the most notable can be found here, [Senator John McCain Responds](#), which includes a letter from Senator McCain to the Secretary of the Navy to answer our complaints. The link to both letters are on the page.

We are preparing a history of Navy abuse of the AICUZ, EIS, and citizen complaint processes the Navy current uses. They have failed miserably, of course, because the Navy has been left to pursue their critical mission to protect the nation and have lost sight of the civilian population below. The Navy has demonstrated that it cannot police itself.

Senator McCain has said he wants to monitor the EIS process as have other leaders. The monitoring must be impartial. The Navy can't "monitor" itself. Could the EPA play a role?

Of course the solution to the problem would be for Congress to monitor operations here through the EPA. There must be checks and balances. This nation can be defended without abusing citizens. The addition of 90 more Growlers is unthinkable.

Please give me a call,

(b) (6)
(b) (6)

From: Somers, Elaine [mailto:somers.elaine@epa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, August 27, 2014 7:58 PM
To: (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Open Letter to the Armed Services Committee - emergency information

Hello, (b) (6)

I do not, but am checking with others here who might. If I learn anything, I will let you know!
Elaine

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, August 25, 2014 1:34 PM
To: Somers, Elaine
Subject: Open Letter to the Armed Services Committee - emergency information

Hi Elaine,

Do you know a way to get this message through to the Armed Services Committee? They are doubling the number of Growlers over our neighborhoods and probably do not know what is happening on the ground. Probably 600 emails have been sent by various people including this letter with their own stories, but we have no way of knowing if we are getting through. Do you have any ideas?

Thanks,

(b) (6)

ASC Open Letter

To: Members of both the House and Senate Armed Services Committees

Regarding: Critical information on the abuse and persecution of families living directly under the flight path of Growler jets

Congress has authorized the continual escalation of noise produced by EA-18 Growler jets flying as low as 250 feet over densely populated civilian neighborhoods at the Outlying Field, Coupeville, near the Naval Air Station Whidbey Island. An additional 22 planes have been requested, and 70 more are in the planning stages. That would almost double the number that already constitute a health emergency and life disruption that is indescribable.

An Environmental Impact Study on the Growlers is now underway, but the Navy has demonstrated an inability to police itself, evidenced by the fact that this study would not have been conducted at all if enraged citizens had not brought expensive legal action against the Navy in Federal Court to force its preparation. At its completion, we expect a “No Impact” rubber stamp based on comments already made by the Base Commander expressing the Navy position.

These additional jets will fly over families who already suffer from the worst noise abuse experienced at any air station in the United States because protection recommended by the FAA, EPA, and DoD has been withheld from them in violation of Island County law.

This is what happened:

1. Island County, without sufficient Navy influence used to prevent it, allowed homes to be built in crash zones where the Navy AICUZ says residential use is incompatible. Permits are still issued there.
2. Island County adopted misleading disclosure language for builders which provided no jet noise information at all and the Navy went on record as supporting and recommending it.
3. For 20 years, Whidbey Island realtors used the misleading builder’s disclosure for home buyers and renters, instead of the original, legal disclosure used for residences.
4. Civilians, who unknowingly bought property in a crash zone, learned too late that their lives will forever be dictated by the soundtrack of Growler jets circling low overhead, again and again, until they move.
5. A class action law suit is on track to be filed over the next few weeks against real estate companies to recover the loss in property value that will result because the legal disclosure that was reinstated in January will surely alarm new buyers.

This has been the result:

1. The noise zone population has suffered health problems, psychological pain and financial loss.

2. Predictably, these people complained, documented the severe health risks of noise, and protested.
3. Because the deception was hidden and “they were told” was assumed, there has been wide-spread harassment of “complainers” in the community, as well as persecution by leadership at all levels of government and by the military.
4. Decisions continue to be made that dramatically escalate the problem and deny any protection, including the current request to fund 22 additional Growlers with 70 needed beyond that.
5. There is an indication that the EIS now being conducted will be flawed, as evidenced by a recent letter written in June 2014 by the NASWI Base Commander, Captain Nortier to Senator Cantwell’s office in response to a constituent complaining about inadequate disclosure. In what appears to be a Navy position statement, he claimed disclosure did indeed occur over the past 20 years, despite well documented information presented to him by the County and numerous citizens in correspondence and one-on-one conversations. He also made a number of additional disturbing comments showing a disregard for both factual information and for noise zone sufferers.

As a member of the Armed Services Committee, you should be aware of the magnitude of this situation. The Noise levels here would break all laws ever devised by county, city, or state governments, as well as laws and guidelines set by OSHA, the FAA, and the EPA. These extreme levels are not even included on most published noise charts. Congress has put the Navy above the law, and total control has led to abuse.

The Armed Services Committee is at a decision point:

1. Could some of the funds being tagged for more planes be used instead to move training to a new or different field that does not entail civilian abuse? We live in the crash zones less than a mile from the OLF Coupeville runway where touch and go operations occur. The field cannot sustain its current use and certainly cannot meet the demands of future defense requirements.
2. Can the United States defend this country AND do so without inflicting harm on its own citizens? We believe both can be done. We are suffering and we need your help!

Limits must be set on military activity. Civilian protection must be funded along with any plans to expand. Congress cannot continue to leave the Navy lawless.

We would appreciate a response on this very important matter.

For an overview and documentation of these issues, see the web site, “Citizens Harmed by Disclosure Deception.” For a summary, visit these pages first:

[Noise Volume](#)

[Noise Annoyance](#)

[Stop 22 More Growlers](#)

[Health Emergency](#)

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Citizens Harmed by Disclosure Deception

From: Somers, Elaine [<mailto:somers.elaine@epa.gov>]
Sent: Monday, March 10, 2014 1:20 PM
To: (b) (6)
Subject: your phone number

Hello, (b) (6)
Thank you for your phone message. I want to return your call, but your area code was unclear on the message. Was it (b) (6) Would you mind emailing me your phone number or giving me a call again? Thanks so much!
Elaine

Elaine Somers
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